

Message Text

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4661
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 0426

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (ZABLOCKI, CLEMENT J.)
SUBJECT: CODEL ZABLOCKI

SUMMARY: DURING TWO-DAY STOP IN AMMAN CODEL MET WITH KING HUSSEIN, CROWN PRINCE HASSAN, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE BAHJAT TALHOUNI AND CINC LT. GEN. BIN SHAKER, VISITED MARKA REFUGEE CAMP AND TOURED ENTIRE LENGTH OF JORDAN VALLEY, STOPPING FOR BRIEFING ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND AT STRATEGIC SITE OF UM QEIS. CODEL CAME AWAY WITH CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT, IN JORDANIAN VIEW, ISRAEL MUST AGREE TO SET OF PRINCIPLES THAT INCLUDES ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PALESTINIANS. CODEL WAS PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC OVER JORDAN VALLEY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN BRIEF REMARKS OPENING HIS ONE HOUR AND 15 MINUTE SESSION WITH CODEL ZABLOCKI EVENING OF JAN 12 KING HUSSEIN REITERATED QUALIFIED PRAISE FOR SADAT INITIATIVE BUT CONTINUED RELUCTANCE TO ENTER JERUSALEM TALKS UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. SADAT'S KNESSET SPEECH HAD INCLUDED JORDAN'S VIEWS ON WHAT SHOULD BE BASIS OF PEACE. KING SAID HE WAS "SHATTERED" BY BEGIN PLAN. IT CON
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TAINED NO CONCESSIONS, BUT SHOWED ISRAEL AS BEING ARROGANT AND SHORT-SIGHTED AND REFLECTED CONTINUED ISRAELI RELIANCE ON ITS MILITARY STRENGTH. THE ARABS VIEWED PLAN AS ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT "HUMILIATION"; IT UNACCEPTABLE AND CANNOT BE BASIS FOR PEACE. SADAT'S STEP WAS GREATEST IMAGINABLE MOVE FOR PEACE. WE ARE LEFT AT EXTREMELY DANGEROUS JUNCTURE NOW THAT ULTIMATE MOVE HAD BEEN MADE

WITHOUT RESPONSE IN KIND FROM ISRAEL. ONLY WAY TO SAVE NEGOTIATIONS WAS TO AGREE ON SET OF PRINCIPLES WHICH WOULD INCLUDE FULL WITHDRAWAL (WITH POSSIBLE RECIPROCAL TERRITORIAL ADJUSTMENTS) AND PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION. KING EMPHASIZED THAT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL ALSO NECESSARY FROM GREATER JERUSALEM AREA COMPRISING ONE-THIRD OF ENTIRE WEST BANK AREA: ARABS SHOULD RETAIN SOVEREIGNTY OVER ARAB JERUSALEM, ALTHOUGH CITY OF JERUSALEM SHOULD REMAIN AN UNDIVIDED "SYMBOL OF PEACE."

2. KING EMPHASIZED THAT HE IS EXTREMELY WORRIED OVER RECENT EVENTS. FAILURE OF SADAT INITIATIVE WILL BRING RADICAL ELEMENTS INTO THE AREA THAT WILL ALTER SITUATION FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. IF CURRENT PROCESS HAD BEEN IN CONTEXT OF GENEVA, QUESTION WOULD NOT BE STARK ONE OF SUCCESS OR FAILURE. BUT WITH SADAT INITIATIVE THERE IS NO MIDDLE GROUND. IF ISRAEL DOES NOT RESPOND TO SADAT'S MOVE, INITIATIVE FAILS AND SADAT AND ALL MODERATES IN AREA ARE DEALT A DISASTEROUS BLOW. HE SAID, OF COURSE, HE DOES NOT USE SUCH WORRIED LANGUAGE IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH ARAB LEADERS, BUT CAN REVEAL THESE FEELINGS TO CLOSE FRIENDS LIKE MEMBERS OF CODEL. ANSWERING REP BINGHAM'S QUESTION REGARDING UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES HE COULD JOIN NEGOTIATIONS, KING NOTED THAT HE SEES HIS ROLE AS BEING ONE OF GETTING CONFIDENTIAL

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ARABS TO GIVE INITIATIVE A CHANCE.

3. ASKED HIS OWN VIEW OF PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION, KING SAID HE DOUBTED THAT RESULT WOULD BE INDEPENDENT STATE, BUT RATHER ONE WITH LINKS TO JORDAN. BUT IF FORMER SHOULD EMERGE FROM A REFERENDUM (WHICH SHOULD BE HELD IN TOTAL FREEDOM UNDER INTERNATIONAL AUSPICES), KING SAID HE WAS SURE HE COULD LIVE WITH IT. IN REPLY, ZABLOCKI EXPRESSED CODEL'S SUPPORT FOR SADAT INITIATIVE AND THEIR INTEREST IN HELPING HISTORIC NEGOTIATIONS NOW IN PROGRESS ACHIEVE A FULL ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE.

4. CODEL BEGAN ITS JORDAN STOP WITH VISIT TO MARKA PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMP. GROUP SAW CHILDREN'S HOT LUNCH DISTRIBUTION IN PROGRESS AND HAD GIVE-AND-TAKE SESSION WITH REFUGEE CAMP LEADERS.

5. CODEL MET WITH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN AFTERNOON OF JAN 11 AT ROYAL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY (RSS). CP DISCUSSED ECONOMIC SITUATION IN JORDAN AND ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP OF WEST BANK TO ISRAEL AND EAST BANK.

IN DESCRIBING IMPACT OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS ON JORDANIAN ECONOMY, CP NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH COST OF SOCIAL SERVICES WAS HIGH, GOJ BELIEVED IT ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN THEM AT AS HIGH A STANDARD AS FEASIBLE IN ORDER TO LESSEN THREAT OF GROWTH OF RADICALISM IN CAMPS. IN RESPONSE TO CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI'S QUESTION ON LEVELS OF SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE, AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED HISTORY OF BUDGET SUPPORT PORTION OF PACKAGE, STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED U.S. BUDGET SUPPORT TO SECURITY OF JORDAN IN CONTEXT OF UNPREDICTABLE ARAB DONORS AND JORDAN'S CONTINUING BUDGET REQUIREMENTS. REP ZABLOCKI TOOK THE POINT, AND HE SUGGESTED THAT NON-BUDGET ASSISTANCE MIGHT BEST BE BROUGHT UNDER DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE RATHER THAN

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SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION SINCE THAT IS WHAT ITS PURPOSE IS. CP AND AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT CURRENT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PORTION OF U.S. ASSISTANCE IS BEING HANDLED HERE EXACTLY AS THOUGH IT INDEED WERE PART OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L FINAL SECTION OF 02 AMMAN 0426

6. IN MEETING JAN 12 WITH JAF CINC LT GEN ZAYD BIN SHAKER AND ASS'T CHIEF OF STAFF FOR OPERATIONS, GEN

MAJALI, CODEL HEARD BRIEFING ON JORDAN'S MILITARY SITUATION, ITS MILITARY CAPABILITIES AND ITS EQUIPMENT SHORTFALLS. CODEL EXPRESSED OPINION THAT JORDAN'S NEEDS ARE MODERATE AND DID NOT INDICATE THAT PROJECTED REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ASSISTANCE PRESENTED COMMITTEE ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS. IN DETAILED PRESENTATION IN FY 1977, 1978, AND 1979 NEEDS, BIN SHAKER EMPHASIZED IN PARTICULAR: A) JORDAN HAS REQUIREMENT FOR COBRA HELICOPTER BEARING TOW MISSILES, TO MEET LARGE IRAQI ARMORED THREAT; B) GOJ IS THINKING OF EVENTUAL INCLUSION OF F-16 AS HIGH PERFORMANCE AIRCRAFT, FOR MID-1980'S PERIOD, BUT HAS NOT MADE REQUEST TO USG. CODEL ALSO RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT HAWK AIR DEFENSE MISSILES ARE BEING DEPLOYED IN A FIXED MODE.

7. PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE BEHJAT TALHOUNI PRESENTED HIS VIEW OF CURRENT ME SITUATION TO CODEL IN MEETING JAN 12. TALHOUNI HOSTED CODEL AT LARGE DINNER SAME EVENING, ALLOWING MEMBERS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ISSUES WITH GROUP OF WELL-INFORMED AND ARTICULATE JORDANIANS, AMONG THEM CHIEF OF ROYAL COURT SHERIF ABD AL-HAMID
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SHARAF, MININFO ABU ODEH, MINSTATE FOR FORAFFAIRS HASSAN IBRAHIM, AND MEMBERS OF THE JORDANIAN SENATE.

8. CODEL, WITH RUNNING BRIEFING BY JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY DEPUTY DIRECTOR MUNTHER HADIDIIN, TOURED ENTIRE LENGTH OF JORDAN VALLEY JAN 12. GROUP HAD OPPORTUNITY SEE STARK CONTRAST BETWEEN IRRIGATED AND UNIRRIGATED LAND, AND SAW U.S. AID-FINANCED SPRINKLER IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT, NEW SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS AND GHOR CANAL SYSTEM. SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAD BEEN TO VALLEY BEFORE, WERE IMPRESSED BY OBVIOUS PROGRESS JORDAN HAS MADE IN AGRICULTURE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, AND EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT U.S. ASSISTANCE SEEMED TO BE SO WELL USED.

9. MRS BINGHAM AND MRS HARDING MET JAN 12 WITH MINLABOR DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS DEPT IN'AM MUFTI FOR BRIEFING ON PROJECTS IN FIELD OF INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO LABOR FORCE.

10. COMMENT: BELIEVE CODEL SPENT FRUITFUL, IF RUSHED, TWO DAYS IN JORDAN. GROUP CAME AWAY WITH PARTICULARLY CLEAR IDEA OF CONSTRAINTS ON JORDAN'S ABILITY TO ENTER JERUSALEM NEGOTIATIONS IN ABSENCE OF SOME PRIOR AGREEMENT ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF WITHDRAWAL AND REGARDING PALESTINIAN QUESTION. BILATERALLY, CODEL SEEMED

IMPRESSED WITH GOJ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN
GENERAL AND IN JORDAN VALLEY IN PARTICULAR.
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